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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Reported Laying of 'Anti-Mine Booms' to Protect the Baku Off-Shore Oil Fields

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1. "Strong anti-mine booms are being built to protect the off-shore oil fields in the Gulf of Baku, in the area of Artem Island, and around the town of Alyaty, some 20 miles southwest from Baku. Installation of these booms was known to be going on at the end of April 1953.
2. "The booms are laid by military trawlers. They consist of two to four rows of iron nets set in a belt two to three km wide. Attached to the outside line of nets are strong detonators, which explode on touch.
3. "On 28 April 53 a Soviet patrol boat accidentally touched a detonator on one of these nets around the off-shore oilfields in the Gulf of Baku. It sank as a result of the explosion. This incident confirmed the previous rumors about the 'mining' of the area.
4. "All work on the booms is carried out in great secrecy by the Soviet Navy. Only certain of the booms which have been laid are marked by buoys. Others are still unmarked. Therefore all ships navigating in the area must carry military pilots, equipped with secret navigation maps.
5. "All the booms are under the constant surveillance of special patrol boats of the Soviet Navy and of military hydroplanes."

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